

FLORIDA TO GET \$51.8 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Florida will receive \$51.8 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Florida's largest school districts, that means:

FLORIDA

DADE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTR	\$10,706,286
BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL DI	4,090,327
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCH	3,612,428
DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	2,870,557
PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL	2,600,471
ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	2,521,170
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL D	2,317,240
POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTR	1,818,293
ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL D	1,390,610
VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOL DI	1,307,154
BREVARD COUNTY SCHOOL DI	1,285,144
LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRI	1,034,381
MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	985,884
SEMINOLE COUNTY SCHOOL D	922,861
PASCO COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	917,683
ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL DI	736,775
SAINT LUCIE COUNTY SCHOO	698,026
LEON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTR	656,800
MANATEE COUNTY SCHOOL DI	647,666
BAY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRI	632,860

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.